

An Essay
on
"Cause and Effect"
respectfully submitted
to the Faculty
of the
Homopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania
by
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Cause and Effect.

In no department of science, more than in that of Medicine, is the working of Cause and effect more apparent when simplified - we have the intricate workings of disease - The intangible results of medicine - The varying appearances of the system, under as many varying auspices continually agreeing in the final result after a studied application of observed means.

We are frequently called upon to antedate phenomena, to which our antedate would be like shooting in the dark could we not trace

from unvarying effect, the original
Cause - Yet many as could be
cited, the instances of never differing
Causes and effects, there are far
more that are wrapped in mystery
than in any other field -

The mistakes between the definable
and the indefinable are like the
colors of the rainbow forever distinct
yet forever blending.

As examples of two particularly
marked antagonistic ^{instances} of the green
and the yellow cause with the
inevitable result - are first the
"Vaccine" and second the "Maligne
Pustule" - In the first we have
certain guides - the pustule on
the card under - The appearance in
successful vaccination hardly

differing a day in a majority of trials - again the effect on the influenced system, the unvaccinated
vaccine crossness of children and still again the modified smallpox of which this vaccine influenced system admitt - In the second are first the Pustule developing on the patient and that with so much ambiguity that even our most clear observing physicians, fail to detect the malignancy until oftentimes too late. Yet its source is so far I think unknown, at least, certainly - There is some alliance between this disease and the "Charbar" of the French still the opinion as to its origin each perhaps well founded and

all differing as they do, throw a
halo of doubt around it at
present unpenetrable.

Blended as is with the study
of medicine an intimate knowledge
of Cause and effect our stock
cannot be too much increased
by close research and study —
Perhaps one generation is too
short for us to add our mite
to the monument already prepared
as our beacon, still it is our
duty and we can do no less
than ^{endeavor to} add our link to the chain
of evidence —

The contingencies of the pro-
fession mostly control our disposi-
tion to numerously observe symptoms —
we do not continue to see and

patient during his visitations, and
our information thro' a third
person, is at the best uncertain,
and I don't see how much
valuable aid in Symptomatology
has been lost by inaccurate
representations - The Homopathic
system of medicine is most
particularly dependant on a
fine distinction as to symptoms -
the theory of Homopathic cure
involves in all cases a strict
reliance on "Effect" judging from
"Cause" at sometime hereto
expected, and some very interesting
researches can be made, and an
ever interesting field surveyed in
theorizing on the "Rationale of cure"
for which of course I have no place.

In Surgery - The Surgeon requires
certainly a strict knowledge of
Mechanics - the first laws of
which involve "Cause and Effect"
He must trace in the fractured
bone or in the lacerated tissue
the likely amount of tissue or
material implicated and the
to-be-expected result in different
applied restorative surgical
methods, and what guides him
so far the experience of years in
faithful watching of the unusual
result of in-the-same-manner-
applied means in various cir-
=Circumstances?

There are certain states of
the stomach indicated by various
appearances of the tongue and

if properly understood almost
always reliably - There are
in the moribund stage of many
diseases a variety of signs by
which the advent of each may
be determined

There is too in the Theory of
Procreation much doubt and I
think always will be, nevertheless
I consider this one of the most
beautiful instances of strictly
exampled "Cause and Effect"
and of the admirable adaptation
and accommodating of nature to
absolute and inevitable circumstance.

There is too the "awful
uncertainty of medicine" which
implies that all remedies are
likely to fail - This (altho' it

may appear presumptuous) I am
not in all conditions willing to
admit because we find in num-
= erous trials that administered drug
produce given effect on the healthy
organism - Now we administer
the drug in disease, we prescribe
it by excellent authority our judg-
= ment and the authority agree or
the books and the veteran prac-
- titioners agree The drug apparently
is surely indicated and - it fails -
The failure of course must be
attributed to the awful uncertain-
- ty of medicine - This human
machine is so constructed that
the practised eye has not been
able to detect death surely working,
and from out of death, apparent

to all brevity, the subject has
risen to life and health. Symptoms
sometimes lie egregiously and therefore
are not a sure index - brevity
all mens judgments are not the
same and why may not the most
experienced doctor miss-choose
his remedy? I am convinced that
more failures should be attributed
to an infudicious practice -
than are - .

Likewise we have many learned
disquisitions on the origin, rise,
and cause of disease - particularly
plausible still very likely to mis-
lead - all fevers of miasmatic
origin we trace to the malaria
of some particular locality.
Fever and Ague may occur

habitually in a certain high lo-
= cality with swamp land or stagnant
pools contiguous - Yet persons
living within a mile or so never
contract it - The miasm if
capable of extending from its
source to the affected district
should certainly be capable of
spreading further and it might
be asked why not "ad infinitum"?
- true - why not?

The miasm of Cholera
spreads in a large flow but sure
circuit from East to West around
the entire globe -

Admitting that we have insispi-
= torily determined the locality
and the existence of the miasm -
how we enlighten ourselves as

to its method of affecting the healthy organization?

The first knowledge we get, is, that the system is impregnated with and is possessed of the disease.

The "Yellow Fever" which raged so fearfully during the last summer came and went and left no traces of its origin -

These are instances of effect we can imagine the cause but we cannot determine it.

There are instances of the same effect from different causes also the same cause producing different effects and I know of no better example to elucidate these assertions than "Alcoholic liquor" - the contrariety of

effect of which is too well known
to require here an explanation.
I might draw parallel or par-
allel on individual principles
still I would have proved nothing.

And lastly I would add - let
it be admitted that we have in
medicine, Causes and that to
those causes are subtended cer-
tain effects - let it be admitted
that those causes act with the
more certain effect when unham-
pered by counteracting influences. let
it be admitted that disease
has strongly marked landmarks
for diagnosis - that drug effects
resemble occasionally pathognomonic
effects - that a drug produces a

a more certainly traceable effect
delivered to the healthy organism,
Let it be made evident to the
observer that a drug chosen, which
causes in the healthy subject a
symptom or train of symptoms
similar to the pathogenetic symptoms;
which, administered in Homopathic doses
has, does, and will alleviate the
disease, and our system of
medicine is proved and sustained
by the mathematical & universal
law of "Cause and Effect".

